

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service states a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, including the industrial, political, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 902.

SHALL THE PEOPLE BE TRUSTED?

The Federal Trade Commission has shown how public utilities secretly form public opinion. Educators were subsidized, text books censored and newspapers bribed.

The utilities defend their "boring-from-within" by the claim that they must protect their properties against "conspirators," who urge municipal ownership.

Until the Commission's exposure, the public had no idea how they were tricked; how the minds of their children were warped by agents in the secret pay of corporations.

The question of dollars and cents is of minor consequence as compared with stealthy methods employed by those who talk of "serving the public."

2-PARTY PLAN DOOMED AS SCIENTISTS MEET

Des Moines, Iowa, July 21.—The 1928 presidential campaign will mark the collapse of America's two-party system, is the view of nearly 100 political scientists at the annual Conference on the Wealth Conference at the University of Iowa.

The scientists represented had a hundred universities and colleges. They are, for the most part, unattached to political parties, and they attempted to look at present-day political problems from the standpoint of historical perspective.

"Issues do not separate the two parties vertically," said Professor William F. Floyd of Harvard University. "They break up each party horizontally in blocs, based on economic interest and social advantage and disadvantage," he said.

These blocs, the economists expect, will replace the two major parties, which will serve no other purpose than to provide the machinery for the election of a President every four years.

Twenty-two issues appeared on the program of the Commonwealth Conference. In only two of these issues did the professors find a discernible difference in the attitude of Democrats and Republicans. The two issues on which there was disagreement were the use of injunctions in labor disputes and Washington's activity in Nicaragua.

TEXTILE WAGE STRIKE SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC

New Bedford, Mass., July 21.—The strike of 30,000 workers against a 10 per cent wage reduction in the textile industry is the most unusual industrial dispute in this country.

July 3 attacks of textile factories to open the mills failed to split the workers' ranks. Instead, they inspired a new spirit of solidarity. Clergymen of every denomination, from the workers' strike. Newspapers and business men have been divided among the strikers.

Before the strike cut wages, the average \$19 a week, which is less than half the living standard set by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since the World War, the 27 mills have been steadily increasing wages from 15 to 20 per cent, and the average of \$17,000 to \$18,000 per year.

The use of this poison is "apparently without precedent and increasing," the Communist Party of the United States declared in a statement.

RADIO TRUST LOOMS

Washington, July 21.—In a letter to the Federal Radio Commission, the National Labor Relations Board has urged that body take action to prevent the "anti-trust" political and economic interests from dominating the radio.

INDUSTRIAL SURVEY OF ANCIENT PLANTS

Washington, July 21.—The Department of Commerce will undertake a study of industrial equipment throughout the country. The study is to determine the amount of obsolete equipment and its impact on the economy in the inability of firms manufacturing similar products to compete on an equally profitable basis.

FIRE DRILLS STARTED BY BOSTON UNIONS

Boston, July 21.—Fire drills in clock factories are being held in this city. The drills are made obligatory under an agreement with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, which is affiliated to the International Union of Garment Workers Union.

and who corrupt the public's sources of information and debauch their servants.

No citizen can object to any group urging the use, but the line should be drawn at illegitimate propaganda and corrupt methods. Sound popular judgments are only possible when propaganda is frank and open.

The Federal Trade Commission's investigation is of special interest to organized labor. It has opened the eyes of many workers as to methods used to form a so-called "public opinion" against labor injunction relief, the child labor act and other wrongs trade unionists would correct.

The utilities either distrust the people or their cause is so weak they do not court open opposition and frank discussion. Their immoral and secret methods are indefensible.

This policy has no place in a government in which sound public opinion plays such an important part.

DON'T OVERLOOK CONGRESS

At this fall's elections the people will vote for a complete election of the House of Representatives and for one-third of the members of the Senate.

The Congress so elected will not take office until this Monday, December 1, 1928. The President will convene his final session next December and will adjourn sine die just before the presidential inauguration.

Injunction relief and other progressive legislation will be passed at the new Congress session. This Congress, which convenes next December, will consider appropriation bills. The "short session" will include the "lame ducks"—who have been repudiated by their constituents and who seek federal appointments or connections with big business as lobbyists and lawyers.

Organized labor should awake to the importance of the next Congress, whose members are now up for re-election.

The greatest interest of the public is in the important and full discussion of this subject should be encouraged, workers must not forget that Congress is the lawmaking branch of government.

LOSS TO PRODUCTION SEEN IN ACCIDENTS

New York, July 21.—Losses due to industrial accidents are generally recognized, according to deductions by the American Engineering Council after a study of data obtained from 14,000 accidents occurring between 1916 and 1925.

While declaring that the accident problem has not been solved, the engineers said a majority of the industrial groups studied from 1925 to 1926 had made a marked improvement in safety measures. At the same time they pointed out that while the hazard was reduced, the loss to production has really decreased during the period, due to the tremendous increase in production.

The greatest increase in industrial accidents, 50 per cent, was reported for this year. The loss to production was \$1,000,000, while, conversely, wire and wire products companies showed a decrease of 10 per cent. Besides the knit goods industry, eight other groups showed increases in loss to production and frequency of accidents. They were automobiles, leather goods, and copper products, cotton goods, the specialty machines, writing paper, and the textile, valve and iron.

It was found that machinery was responsible for 46 per cent of the trouble in terms of productive hours lost; handling of objects, 21 per cent; and the use of tools, 10 per cent. The loss to production was \$1,000,000, while, conversely, wire and wire products companies showed a decrease of 10 per cent. Besides the knit goods industry, eight other groups showed increases in loss to production and frequency of accidents. They were automobiles, leather goods, and copper products, cotton goods, the specialty machines, writing paper, and the textile, valve and iron.

RADIUM PAINT DEADLY; FEDERAL PROBE URGED

New York, July 21.—A group of physicians and social workers have urged the United States Health Service to investigate the use of radium paint in the manufacture of luminous objects.

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in May, 1928, that two firms in this country manufacturing luminous objects for watch dials in 1925 sold their products to 19 firms. Certain firms are applying the radium paint to watch dials. The use of this poison is "apparently without precedent and increasing," the Communist Party of the United States declared in a statement.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS

London, England, July 21.—Unemployment in this country is increasing. The total number of persons on the unemployment register in Great Britain on June 25 was 1,192,000, or 17.5 per cent of the total population of 18,797,000 more than a year ago.

Appalling conditions continue to exist in the unemployment camps. Many of the inmates are suffering from lack of food and shelter. The government has failed to take any effective steps to reduce the unemployment problem.

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Complete recognition of the British trade union movement, organized workers, and a joint organization to study industry and to adjust disputes without compulsion are features of a preliminary report on industrial peace by representatives of the British Trades Union Congress and British employers' organizations.

The report gives credit to the unions for initiating this movement. It is agreed that the British trade union movement is to be commended.

A National Industrial Council will be formed. Membership will consist of an equal number of members of the General Council of the British Trades Union Congress and organized employers.

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British Employers Favor Peace; Sign Sweeping Pact With Labor

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HIGHER TARIFF ON TEXTILES OPPOSED BY TRADE UNIONIST

New York, July 21.—A "force" is the term Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, applied to the claim that a higher tariff is necessary to keep our foreign imports and thus protect high wages of the American textile worker.

"The average wage of textile workers in this country is less than \$20 a week, as compared with \$25 in Great Britain, where we are making 62 cents per hour, while the average wage of the textile worker in the United States is \$12.40, as compared with \$16.40 in Great Britain."

"We have seen a doubling up of machinery in all our plain textile mills since 1914. In 10 years we have seen a doubling, and tripling in many instances, of capitalization and enormous

costs. The average wage of textile workers in this country is less than \$20 a week, as compared with \$25 in Great Britain, where we are making 62 cents per hour, while the average wage of the textile worker in the United States is \$12.40, as compared with \$16.40 in Great Britain."

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stock dividends along with the regular cash dividends without the return of a dollar back into the hands of the workers.

"We have seen managerial staffs increased 200 and 300 per cent and distribution costs jumped 100 per cent.

"We do not have an exploitation tariff. By that we mean enrichment of the few at the expense of the many. The fact that exportations of our goods are increasing, and the further fact that our imports are well under 10 per cent of what we produce, tends to belie the charge that manufacturers who maintain American working standards have nothing to fear from competition without.

"They should eliminate the parasitic manufacturer who is the cause of our unemployment, and who is mainly responsible for our trouble."

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